



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1289.0 - Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999

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Summary

Main Features

Preface

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed **Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity** in response to a widely recognised need for a nationally consistent framework for the collection and dissemination of data on cultural and language diversity.

The publication presents a set of statistical standards which are designed to collect all the cultural and language information considered necessary for consistent and accurate measurement of cultural diversity in Australia. The standards are intended as a replacement for non-English speaking background (NESB), which has previously been used as a broad measure of culturally related need or disadvantage.

Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity is a reference document which defines the standards and outlines methods for their use in statistical, administrative and service provision settings. The standards, which were endorsed by the Council of Ministers of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (COMIMA) in April 1999, include recommended questions, classifications, coding structures and output categories for use in interview-based and self-enumerated data collections.

It is intended that Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity be used by government, academic and private sector organisations in all relevant data collection activities, as this will improve the compatibility and comparability of data derived from different sources.

The assistance of the many organisations and individuals who provided information and advice during the development of this set of standards is gratefully acknowledged. The ABS would welcome feedback on any aspect of these standards.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

See also:

- The Guide: Implementing the **Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity** (the **Guide**) was developed by the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committee on Multicultural Affairs as a tool to assist government departments and agencies to implement the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication, Standards for

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- For the most detailed and up-to-date versions of the standards, see

Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed **Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity** in response to a widely recognised need for a nationally consistent framework for the collection and dissemination of data on cultural and language diversity.

The publication presents a set of statistical standards which are designed to collect all the cultural and language information considered necessary for consistent and accurate measurement of cultural diversity in Australia. The standards are intended as a replacement for non-English speaking background (NESB), which has previously been used as a broad measure of culturally related need or disadvantage.

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Note: 5 November 2014

Between September 2012 and October 2014, all of the standards in Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity were updated. For links to the updated standards, see the Contents page.

Contents

- Ancestry (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.009 - Ancestry Standard)
- Australian Citizenship (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.010 - Australian Citizenship Standard)
- Country of Birth Father (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.004 - Country of Birth Standard)
- Country of Birth (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.004 - Country of Birth Standard)
- Mother
- Indigenous Status (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.008 - Indigenous Status Standard)
- Religious Affiliation (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.003 - Religious Affiliation Standard)
- Year of Arrival in Australia (This standard has been superseded. To access the updated standard refer to 1200.0.55.007 - Year of Arrival in Australia Standard)

Ancestry

Contents >> Ancestry

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification & coding
- Collection methods
- Output
- Measurement Issues and Related Classifications

Introduction

[Contents >> Ancestry >> Introduction](#)

Introduction

1. The development of Australia as a multicultural society and the subsequent wider interest in constructing statistical profiles of particular ethnic or cultural groups has, over the years, increased the demand for quality data relating to cultural and language diversity.
2. Since the time of British settlement, cultural and language diversity in Australia has been widely influenced by immigration. There is significant community interest in measuring the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population and in identifying the characteristics of particular migrant community groups. An important element of cultural and language diversity in Australia is the extent to which Australians retain the culture, ethnicity or language of their parents. Retention of cultural and language diversity is determined by the Country of Birth variables, in association with variables such as Indigenous Status, Religious Affiliation, Year of Arrival in Australia and language variables such as First Language Spoken, Proficiency in Spoken English and Main Language Other Than English Spoken At Home.
3. Indigenous Status is a separate variable measuring a specific element of ancestry, namely whether a person is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. However, it does not necessarily provide information on all elements of a person's ancestry.
4. The **Ancestry** variable can be used in conjunction with these variables in order to identify particular ethnic or cultural groups, as it provides a self-assessed measure of ethnicity and cultural background. However, Ancestry in the Australian context is problematic as there are many Australians with origins and heritage which do not, in practice, relate to their current ethnic identity. Ancestry data alone, therefore, is not considered to be a particularly good measure of service needs or the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage or disadvantage, and should only be used as a broad measure of cultural diversity.
5. A major advantage of the Ancestry variable is that it is able to measure an association with ethnic and cultural groups which do not equate directly to countries or languages and thus cannot be readily identified using country of birth or language variables. For instance, the Ancestry variable assists in the identification and measurement of ethnic and cultural minorities which exist or originate within particular countries, ethnic and cultural groups which form a distinct unbroken geographic block across neighbouring country borders, and ethnic and cultural groups which are located in many disparate countries across the world.
6. The Ancestry variable was included in the 1986 Census of Population and Housing but was not included in the 1991 or 1996 Censuses. However, due to an increasing demand for these data by many groups in the community, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) included an Ancestry question in the 2001 Census and plans to include one in the 2006 Census.
7. The Ancestry variable has been endorsed by the Council of Ministers of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (COMIMA) as one of the standard set of indicators for use in measuring

cultural and linguistic diversity. It is to be progressively implemented in administrative and service settings to provide data to determine, measure and monitor service needs (in terms of access and equity requirements), and to provide a measure of cultural diversity in its broader sense.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

[Contents >> Ancestry >> Underlying concepts](#)

Name of variable

8. The standard name of the variable is Ancestry.

Definition of variable

Nominal definition

9. Ancestry describes the ethnic or cultural heritage of a person, that is, the ethnic or cultural groups to which a person's forebears are or were attached.

10. Ancestry is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'.

Operational definition

11. Operationally, Ancestry is defined as the ethnic or cultural groups which a person *identifies* as being his or her ancestry. For example, a respondent may indicate four ancestries because each grandparent is from a different ethnic or cultural background (say Italian, Greek, German, English). However, another person with the same ancestry may choose to identify as 'Australian' because one or both parents were born in Australia, or because of a cultural or national attachment to this country. Ancestry therefore involves measures of self-identification of ethnic or cultural group affiliation or nationality as well as of descent from one or more particular groups.

Discussion of conceptual issues

12. Ancestry describes the ethnic heritage of a person, that is, the ethnic or cultural group to which a person's forebears are/were attached.

13. The Ancestry variable can be used in conjunction with the Country of Birth variables, Indigenous Status, Religious Affiliation, and language variables to identify particular ethnic or cultural groups. However, ancestry in the Australian context is problematic as there are many Australians with origins and heritage which do not, in practice, relate to their current ethnic identity. Ancestry data alone, therefore, are not considered to be a particularly good measure of service needs and the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage or disadvantage, and should only be used as a broad measure of cultural diversity. It should be noted however, that a major advantage of the Ancestry variable is that it is able to measure an association with ethnic and cultural groups which do not equate directly to countries or languages and thus cannot be readily identified using country of birth or language variables. For instance the Ancestry variable assists in the

identification and measurement of ethnic and cultural minorities which exist or originate within particular countries, ethnic and cultural groups which form a distinct unbroken geographic block across neighbouring country borders, and ethnic and cultural groups which are located in many disparate countries across the world.

14. It should be noted that many people in Australia have a variety of cultural backgrounds and do not relate to a single ethnic or cultural group. These people will give multiple responses to a question on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity. Often the responses will indicate an identification with Australia in a national or cultural sense, but will also acknowledge continuing ties with other ethnic or cultural groups (e.g. Irish Australian, Italian Australian). This does not mean that people who identify primarily with other ethnicities, ancestries or cultures do not also regard themselves as Australian in most senses. The problem is with the terminology. "Australian" is used as the adjective to describe the culture that has developed in this country over the last two hundred years, and also to describe all members of the citizenry regardless of whether or not they regard their ethnicity, culture or ancestry as Australian.

15. A question on each person's Ancestry, was asked for the first time in the 1986 Census. This was the result of investigation by the 1986 Population Census Ethnicity Committee on the need for data on ethnicity other than language, country of birth or country of birth of parents. The question was designed to identify the respondent's origin rather than a subjective perception of their ethnic background. Even so, some subjectivity was involved because of broad interpretations of what the term ancestry meant and confusion as to what was required.

16. Evaluation of the 1986 Census results found Ancestry data did not add to data already obtained on language and birthplace for very many cultural groups. However, it did provide some additional information on some cultural groups, members of which are born in many countries (e.g. people of Chinese and Indian ancestries) or distinct groupings within a country (e.g. Maoris as a subset of people born in New Zealand). The additional information was less useful where the person had already indicated use of a language spoken by the cultural group (e.g. Cantonese or Hindi).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification & coding

[Contents](#) >> [Ancestry](#) >> Classification & coding

The classification criteria

17. Classification criteria are the principles by which classification categories are aggregated to form broader or higher level categories in a classification structure.

18. The classification criteria and the way they have been applied have produced a classification structure that can be described in conventional terms: cultural and ethnic entities grouped to form narrow groups on the basis of geographic proximity and similarity in terms of cultural and social characteristics; and narrow groups aggregated to form broad groups on the basis of geographic proximity and a degree of similarity in terms of their characteristics.

19. More details regarding the classification criteria are included in the Australian Standard

The standard classification and code structure

20. The ASCCEG is to be used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Ancestry. The ASCCEG is designed to be used in the classification of information relating to a number of topics such as ancestry, ethnicity, and cultural identity. Although these topics have elements of difference, it is considered that the fundamental concept common to them all, and thus underpinning the classification, is **ethnicity**. The term 'ethnicity' is used in the ASCCEG to describe a shared identity or similarity of a group of people on the basis of one or more factors, e.g. shared history, cultural traditions, religion or language. In this sense, the term 'ethnicity' can, of course, be applied to all members of the Australian population. 'Australian' or 'Aboriginal' are valid descriptors of ethnicity.

21. The classification has a three-level hierarchical structure. The third and most detailed level of the classification consists of base or third-level units which are ethnic or cultural groups. Included in the third-level units are a number of 'not elsewhere classified' (n.e.c.) categories, which contain ethnic or cultural groups that are not listed separately in the classification.

22. The second level of the classification comprises narrow groups of ethnic and cultural groups which are similar in terms of the classification criteria (geographic proximity in terms of the areas in which they originated, a long shared history, and similarity in terms of social and cultural characteristics).

23. The first and most general level of the classification comprises broad groups of ethnic and cultural groups. Broad groups are formed by aggregating geographically proximate narrow groups.

24. In the classification, one, two and four-digit codes are assigned to the first, second and third-level categories of the classification respectively. The first digit identifies the broad group in which each cultural and ethnic group or Narrow Group is contained. The first two digits taken together identify the narrow group in which each base level cultural and ethnic group is contained. The four-digit codes represent each of the base level cultural and ethnic groups. For example, the code 2 represents the Broad Group North-West European; the code 21 represents the Narrow Group British which is included within North-West European; and the code 2101 represents English which is included in the Narrow Group British.

25. The following example demonstrates the code scheme for the narrow groups and cultural and ethnic groups included under the broad group North-West European:

2	NORTH-WEST EUROPEAN
21	British
2101	English
2102	Scottish
2103	Welsh
2104	Channel Islander
2105	Manx
2199	British, n.e.c. (includes Falkland Islander)
22	Irish
2201	Irish
23	Western European
2301	Austrian

2303	Dutch
2304	Flemish
2305	French
2306	German
2307	Swiss
2311	Belgian
2312	Frisian
2313	Luxembourg
2399	Western European, n.e.c. (includes Alsatian, Breton, Walloon)
24	Northern European
2401	Danish
2402	Finnish
2403	Icelandic
2404	Norwegian
2405	Swedish
2499	Northern European, n.e.c. (includes Faeroese, Greenlandic, Saami)

26. The full standard classification and code structure are included in the ASCCEG.

Residual categories and codes

27. For each narrow group of the classification structure, a four-digit code, consisting of the two digits of the narrow group followed by the digit '99', is reserved as a residual 'not elsewhere classified' (n.e.c.) category. Cultural and ethnic groups which are not separately identified in the classification structure are included in the residual (n.e.c.) category of the narrow group to which they relate. Residual categories are only identified in the classification structure if they are needed. The classification currently identifies 23 residual categories.

28. In each broad group, codes are also reserved for residual categories at the narrow group level. These codes consist of the broad group code followed by '9'. These categories are termed 'other' and consist of separately identified cultural and ethnic groups which do not fit into any of the narrow groups contained within the broad group on the basis of the classification criteria. The classification contains 2 such residual categories.

29. It should be noted that residual categories are part of the standard classification and should not be created or used to code responses which contain insufficient information to be accurately assigned to another category of the classification. For more details regarding the residual categories and codes used when coding ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity see the ASCCEG.

Supplementary codes

30. Supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses in statistical, administrative and service delivery collections. These codes are of three types:

- The four-digit codes ending with two or three zeros are described as 'not further defined' (n.f.d.) codes and are used to code responses to a statistical or administrative question which cannot be accurately coded to one of the base level units of the classification but which can be coded to a higher level category.
- The four-digit codes commencing with three zeros are supplementary codes included for operational purposes to allow the coding of survey responses and other data that cannot be allocated a code at any level of

the classification structure.

- The four-digit codes commencing with '09' are used to code responses and other data relating to specific and recognised entities which are not discrete cultural and ethnic groups according to the ASCCEG principles and which cannot be allocated an n.f.d. code as described above.

31. It should be noted that supplementary codes are not part of the main classification structure. They exist for operational reasons only, and no data would be coded to them if sufficiently detailed responses were obtained in all instances. More details regarding the supplementary codes (e.g. 'not further defined' (n.f.d.), 'inadequately described' and 'not stated') used when coding ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity data are included in the ASCCEG.

Scope of the variable

32. The variable Ancestry applies to all persons.

Application of the classification to other variables

33. The ASCCEG can be used to classify a variety of data relating to ancestry, ethnicity and cultural identity.

Coding procedures

34. The purpose of the ASCCEG is to code the extent to which people associate or identify with particular ancestral, ethnic and cultural groups. It should be noted that the classification is not intended to classify people, but rather all claims of association with an ancestral, ethnic or cultural group. Many people do not identify with a single ancestral, ethnic or cultural group and will give multiple responses to a question on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity. Often the responses will indicate an identification with Australia in a national or cultural sense, but will also acknowledge continuing ties with other ancestral, ethnic or cultural groups. Such responses include Irish Australian, Italian Australian, etc. These responses should be assigned codes for both categories they relate to. Sometimes a response will give the ethnicity and ancestry of both parents or all grandparents. If meaningful and useful data is to be collected, stored and disseminated, as many as possible of the cultural and ethnic groups nominated by a person on a statistical or administrative form should be coded. It is suggested that a minimum of two cultural and ethnic groups be coded if a multiple response is given. This will improve the accuracy and usefulness of data. The ABS has developed guidelines for the coding, storage and presentation of multiple responses to questions on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity data. These guidelines are included in the ASCCEG publication.

Coding indexes

35. A coding index has been developed to assist in the implementation and use of the ASCCEG. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to ancestry, ethnicity and cultural identity and their correct classification codes. Use of the coding index will enable responses to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

36. Copies of the coding index sorted in alphabetical and numerical (code) order are included in the ASCCEG. It is available in electronic form (for free) from the ABS Website. If you have any queries, you can contact the Standards support HOTLINE on phone (02) 6252 5736, or e-mail social.classifications@abs.gov.au.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents >> Ancestry >> Collection methods](#)

Standard question module

37. This question module is recommended for all household-based surveys and other statistical and administrative collections designed to collect data on Ancestry. When used in conjunction with Country of Birth and language variables, it provides detailed information about the ethnic composition of the Australian population.

38. The standard question module for obtaining detailed data for Ancestry is:

Q1. What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] Ancestry?

Provide up to two ancestries only.

Examples of 'Other - please specify' are: GREEK, VIETNAMESE, HMONG, DUTCH, KURDISH, MAORI, LEBANESE, AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER.

English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Italian	<input type="checkbox"/>
German	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Australian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other - please specify :

39. The list of ancestries provided with this question module has been included primarily on the basis of an assessment of their statistical significance in the Australian context. This list ensures compatibility across collections and is used to minimise coding costs. It will be reviewed periodically as different ancestries assume a greater or lesser significance in the Australian context.

40. The 'Other' category is included for those people who have an ancestry or ancestries not offered in the list as a response to the question. 'Please specify' is added to the 'Other' category and a space is provided for respondents to write in their ancestry response(s).

41. Each ancestry response will need to be matched to an entry in the Australian Standard

Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) Second Edition, Coding Index (see Coding Index in Classification and Coding).

Alternative Question

42. If there is a need for detailed information but space constraints are an over-riding consideration, the tick boxes can be deleted and a space provided for all ancestry responses to be written in. If this is done, however, there will be significant additional coding costs since each response will need to be matched to an entry in the ASCCEG Coding Index (see Coding Index in Classification and Coding). This is only likely to be appropriate in small scale data collection activities and in cases where data entry of verbatim responses is an administrative requirement, or where optical character recognition data capture technologies are used, allowing automatic matching of response data with index entries.

The question module would be as follows:

Q1. What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] Ancestry?

For example: English, Irish , Hmong, Kurdish, Italian, Greek, Maori, Vietnamese.)

(Provide more than one ancestry if necessary.)

Ancestry :

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43. Since the above questions are subject to an ongoing program of testing in ABS collections and are subject to change, it is recommended that agencies wishing to collect Ancestry in their own data collection activities contact the ABS before implementing this standard. Phone the Standards Support HOTLINE at the Australian Bureau of Statistics on phone (02) 6252 5736 or e-mail social.classifications@abs.gov.au.

Standard input categories

44. The standard input categories for the Ancestry question module are the base-level units of the ASCCEG (see Classification and Coding) and are represented by their four-digit codes. For operational reasons, supplementary codes also exist to enable inadequately described responses to be processed within a collection and coded at the four-digit level.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Output

[Contents >> Ancestry >> Output](#)

Standard output categories

45. The hierarchical structure of the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the level of the classification which best suits their requirements. Data can be presented at the broad group level, narrow group level, or the base (cultural and ethnic group) level. If necessary, significant ethnic or cultural groups within a narrow group can be presented separately while the remaining ethnic groups within the narrow group are aggregated. For example, the third level category 'Finnish' can be separately identified as an output category within the 'Northern European' Narrow Group, with the remaining third-level categories in this narrow

group aggregated in an 'Other Northern European' category. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant narrow groups within a broad group.

46. Regardless of the level of aggregation envisaged for the dissemination of statistics, data should be captured, classified and stored at the base-level of the ASCCEG wherever possible. Collecting and storing data at the most detailed level of the classification allows the greatest flexibility for the output of statistics, enables more detailed and complex analysis, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that provides maximum flexibility for future use of the data.

47. However, the constraints affecting each statistical collection or other application, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors, may not permit the collection or output of data at the lower levels of the classification.

48. In instances where significant cultural and ethnic groups within a narrow group are presented separately while the remaining base level units within the group are aggregated, the aggregate group should be labelled 'Other'. Similarly, aggregated narrow groups within a broad group are labelled 'Other'.

49. Cultural and ethnic groups from different narrow groups should not be combined as this corrupts the application of the classification criteria and has repercussions on data comparability. Similarly, narrow groups from different broad groups should not be combined.

50. The following is an example (for illustration purposes only) of the correct approach to producing output for selected cultural and ethnic groups which may be of interest in a particular application:

OCEANIAN
Australian Peoples
 Australian
 Australian Aboriginal
 Australian South Sea Islander
 Torres Strait Islander
New Zealand Peoples
Other

NORTH-WEST EUROPEAN
British
 English
 Scottish
 Other
Irish
Western European
 Dutch
 German
 Other
Northern European

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN
Southern European
 Italian
 Spanish
 Other
South Eastern European
 Greek
 Macedonian
 Other

Eastern European
NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN
Arab
Jewish
Other North African and Middle Eastern
SOUTH-EAST ASIAN
Vietnamese
Indonesian
Other
NORTH-EAST ASIAN
Chinese Asian
Other North-East Asian
SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ASIAN
Southern Asian
Indian
Pakistani
Other
Central Asian
PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS
North American
Other
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN

Supporting variables

51. Ancestry does not require any supporting variables but needs to be considered together with other variables on cultural and ethnic origins for the purposes of most analysis. Such variables include **Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother, Country of Birth of Father, Indigenous Status, Religious Affiliation, Year of Arrival in Australia** and language variables.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measurement Issues and Related Classifications

[Contents](#) >> Ancestry >> Measurement Issues and Related Classifications

Measurement issues

52. The Ancestry question will record all claims of association with ancestries, ethnicities and cultures. As such, multiple responses are encouraged.

53. The purpose of the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) is to code the extent to which people associate or identify with particular ethnic and cultural groups. It should therefore be noted that the classification is not intended to classify people, but rather all claims of association with an ethnic or cultural group, i.e. one ancestry response is not equal to one person. Many people do not relate to a single ethnic or cultural group and will give multiple responses to a question on ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity. It is recommended that a minimum of two and a maximum of four ethnic and cultural groups nominated by a person on a statistical or administrative form be collected and coded (to capture responses such as 'Australian Italian', and for those people who wish to identify with, say, the ethnicities of each of their grandparents). The ABS has developed guidelines for the coding, storage and presentation of multiple responses to questions on

ancestry, ethnicity or cultural identity data. These guidelines are included in the ASCCEG publication.

54. The normal constraints affecting statistical collections, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors which may not permit the collection or output of data for some of the categories at the lower levels of the classification, apply to the Ancestry variable.

55. It should be noted that Indigenous Status is a separate variable measuring a specific element of ancestry, namely whether a person is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. However, it does not necessarily provide information on all elements of a person's ancestry.

Related classifications

56. The Ancestry question in the 1986 Census of Population and Housing was classified and coded using a non-standard classification and coding index.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Country of Birth of Father

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification and coding
- Collection methods
- Measurement issues and related classifications
- Output
- References

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father >> Introduction](#)

1. Since the time of British settlement, cultural and language diversity in Australia has been widely influenced by immigration. There is significant community interest in measuring the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population and in identifying the characteristics of particular migrant community groups. An important element of cultural and language diversity in Australia is the extent to which second generation Australians retain their parents' culture, ethnicity or language. Retention of cultural and language characteristics is determined by the variables Country of Birth of Father and Country of Birth of Mother, in association with variables such as language variables and Religious Affiliation.

2. Migrants and their descendants have been identified by programme developers and

service providers as forming population groups that are likely to experience disadvantage when seeking to obtain equal access to government and community programmes and services in Australia. Data relating to Country of Birth of Father can thus be used to determine, measure and monitor service needs of second generation Australians (in terms of access and equity requirements), when used with other variables such as Country of Birth of Mother, language variables, Proficiency in Spoken English, and Religious Affiliation.

3. It should be noted however, that Country of Birth of Father when used with a range of other variables is able to measure cultural diversity in its broader sense. It may indicate the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage, as well as measuring disadvantage in terms of access to services.

4. The variable Country of Birth of Father has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs as one of the standard set of indicators for use in measuring cultural and linguistic diversity. The set is to be progressively implemented in administrative and service settings to provide data to determine, measure and monitor service needs (access and equity requirements), and to provide a measure of cultural diversity in its broader sense.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father >> Underlying concepts](#)

Name of variable

5. The standard name of the variable is 'Country of Birth of Father'.

6. This nomenclature was changed from 'Birthplace of Father' on 16 July 1999 to better describe the geographic units (countries) for which responses are obtained. The term 'Birthplace' could equally describe subsets of countries such as states, regions or towns.

7. It should be noted that the name change of the variable does not affect the definition, scope or meaning of the concept being measured and that 'Country of Birth of Father' statistics and 'Birthplace of Father' statistics are entirely compatible.

Definition of variable

Nominal definition

8. Nominally, Country of Birth of Father is defined as the country in which a person's father was born.

9. Country of Birth of Father is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'.

Operational definition

10. Operationally, the variable Country of Birth of Father is defined as the country the

respondent identifies as being the one in which his/her father was born.

11. The issue of what constitutes a country is addressed in the topic Classification and coding, or see the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Discussion of conceptual issues

12. Country of Birth of Father identifies the country in which a person's father was born. This variable is used, in association with variables such as Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother and First Language Spoken, to measure the extent to which an individual retains their parents' culture, ethnicity or language.

13. Country of Birth of Father is closely related to the standard variable Country of Birth of Mother. The two variables are generally asked together in collections, with Country of Birth of Father traditionally asked first. If space constraints only allow for one question on parents' birthplace, it is recommended that Country of Birth of Mother be asked as, in practice, people are more likely to know their mother's country of birth with a greater degree of certainty than their father's country of birth.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification and coding

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father >> Classification and coding](#)

The classification criteria

14. The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Country of Birth of Father.

15. Three classification criteria are used to form the categories of the main classification structure:

- the geographic proximity of countries (the basic criterion);
- the similarity of countries in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics, and;
- the desirability that groups of countries lie within a single geographic continent (conventionally defined).

16. The classification criteria and the way they have been applied has produced a main classification structure that can be described in conventional terms: countries grouped to form minor groups on the basis of geographic proximity and similarity in terms of cultural, social, economic and political characteristics; and minor groups aggregated to form major groups on the basis of geographic proximity and a degree of similarity in terms of their characteristics.

17. Further details regarding the classification criteria can be found in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) .

The standard classification

18. As mentioned above, the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Country of Birth of Father. The term 'country' is used in the SACC to describe fully independent countries (sovereign nation states), administrative subdivisions of the United Kingdom (ie. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), external territories and dependencies of independent countries, and recognised geographic areas of which the ownership or control is in dispute.

19. The classification has a three-level hierarchical structure. At the time of writing, the third and most detailed level of the classification consists of 244 base or third-level units which are discrete countries. Included in the 244 third-level units are five 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) categories, which contain entities that are not listed separately in the classification.

20. The second level of the classification comprises 27 minor groups, which are groups of neighbouring countries similar in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics. Each minor group lies wholly within the boundaries of a geographic continent. On average, minor groups contain nine countries, with individual minor groups containing between 1 and 27 countries.

21. The first and most general level of the classification comprises nine major groups which are formed by aggregating geographically proximate minor groups and, therefore, comprise countries which are broadly similar in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

22. For further details of the classification structure, see the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

The code structure

23. One, two and four digit codes are assigned to the first, second and third level units of the classification respectively. The first digit identifies the Major Group in which each Country or Minor Group is contained. The first two digits taken together identify the Minor Group in which each Country is contained. The four digit codes represent each of the Countries.

24. The following example demonstrates the code scheme for the countries included within the Minor Group Southern Europe which is one of three minor groups of the Major Group Southern and Eastern Europe.

3 SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

31 Southern Europe

- 3101 Andorra
- 3102 Gibraltar
- 3103 Holy See
- 3104 Italy
- 3105 Malta
- 3106 Portugal
- 3107 San Marino

25. It should be noted that countries are not allocated codes ending with the digits '0' or '9'. These are special purpose codes for residual categories and supplementary codes (see below).

26. For further details of the code structure, see the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Residual categories and codes

27. Any geographic area within the region described by a minor group, which is not separately identified in the classification, and not part of one of the separately identified countries, can be included in the residual or 'not elsewhere classified' category.

28. These 'not elsewhere classified' categories have codes ending with the digits '99'. Note that residual categories are part of the standard classification

29. Because of the comprehensive coverage of the SACC, it has been necessary to create residual categories in five instances only. An example of a residual category and code is:

1599 - Polynesia (excludes Hawaii), not elsewhere classified (nec)

(Note that Baker Island is Polynesia and has the code 1599, but is not listed separately in the classification.)

30. Further details regarding the residual categories and codes used when coding country of birth data can be found in the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Supplementary codes

31. In the SACC, supplementary codes have a more complex structure than many of the other standard variables. The supplementary codes are used to represent 'not further defined' (nfd), 'inadequately described' and 'not stated' responses.

32. An example of a 'not further defined' category and code (which forms part of the code structure in paragraph 24 above) is:

3100 - Southern Europe, not further defined (nfd)

33. Note that the labels attached to the supplementary codes are not strictly part of the standard classification.

34. Further details regarding the supplementary codes can be found in the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Scope of the variable

35. The variable Country of Birth of Father applies to all persons.

Application of the classification to other variables

36. In addition to Country of Birth of Father, the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) can be used to classify a variety of variables such as Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother, Country of Residence, Country of Future Residence, Country of Citizenship, Country of Embarkation, Country of Disembarkation and Country of Last Residence (for immigration and overseas travel statistics). To ensure comparability of data for a range of related variables, the classification should be used in all cases where Australian social, labour and demographic statistics are classified by country.

Coding procedures

37. All Country of Birth responses are coded to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) using the guidelines detailed in that publication. Responses are matched with entries in the SACC coding index to determine the correct code.

Coding indexes

38. A coding index has been developed to assist in the implementation and use of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) and should be used when coding responses to questions relating to Country of Birth. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to countries and their correct classification codes. Use of the coding index enables responses to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

39. Copies of the coding index sorted in alphabetical and numerical (code) order can be found in the SACC publication (Cat. no. 1269.0), or in electronic format by contacting the Assistant Director, Social Classifications and Standards, Classifications and Data Standards Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics on phone (02) 6252 7074, fax (02) 6252 5281 or e-mail social.classifications@abs.gov.au.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents](#) >> [Country of Birth of Father](#) >> Collection methods

Standard question module

40. Country of Birth of Father is closely related to the variable [Country of Birth of Mother](#), and the two questions are generally asked together in collections with the Country of Birth of Father question traditionally asked first. If space constraints only allow enough room for one question on parents' birthplace, it is recommended that Country of Birth of Mother be asked as, in practice, people are more likely to know their mother's country of birth with a greater degree of certainty than their father's country of birth.

41. There are two standard question modules for Country of Birth of Father:

- The Question Module for Detailed Data (see below) elicits the most detailed responses and data on Country of Birth of Father.

There are two alternatives for the Question Module for Detailed Data which may be used depending on space and cost considerations:

- Alternative one: a set of tick boxes and an 'Other - please specify' response category for writing a country not specified in the tick box list;
- Alternative two: a tick box for Australia and an 'Other - please specify' write-in category.

Alternative two is more compact but will incur additional coding costs.

- The Question Module for Minimum Data (see below) only contains the tick box options 'Australia' and 'Other country' and therefore does not collect detail on countries other than Australia.

Question module for detailed data

Alternative one

42. This standard question module is recommended for all household based surveys and other statistical and administrative collections designed to collect extensive data on Country of Birth of Father.

43. The standard question module for obtaining detailed data for the variable Country of Birth of Father follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] father born ?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Italy | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Zealand | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Greece | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Netherlands | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Germany | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lebanon | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other - please specify:

44. The countries provided with this module have been included primarily on the basis of their statistical significance in the Australian context. These countries accounted for over 80% of all Country of Birth of Father responses recorded in the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. This order and list of countries may change more rapidly than the classification structure. Although China is a country in which a large proportion of Australians' fathers were born, it is excluded from the list because it is not the only country in

which 'Chinese' people may be born and, if included, may bias responses. For example, if China were included in the list, Taiwan and Hong Kong would also need to be included otherwise persons with a Chinese father born in these countries may be induced to mark the China tick box option.

45. The use of this list ensures compatibility across collections and minimises coding costs. This list will be reviewed periodically as different countries assume a greater or lesser significance in the Australian context as a result of changing migration patterns. The list of tick box options provided as part of the standard question module is appropriate within the Australia-wide context. However, some users may wish to capture country of birth of father data in specific areas which have a different population composition than Australia as a whole. In these instances Census small area data can be used to identify a list of more appropriate tick boxes. Where an instrument using this question module (Question module for detailed data, alternative one) collects 'Country of birth of person' and 'Country of birth of mother', as well as 'Country of birth of father', it is reasonable to substitute the response list for 'Country of birth of person' for the response options tailored for each question, even though this may reduce coding efficiency.

46. Each response to the 'Other - please specify' option will need to be matched to an entry in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Coding Index (see Coding Indexes in Classification and Coding).

47. This question module is recommended for all household-based surveys and other statistical and administrative collections designed to collect extensive data on Country of Birth of Father.

Alternative two

48. If there is a need for detailed information but space constraints are an over-riding consideration then the tick boxes can be deleted (except the tick box for Australia) and respondents with an overseas born father can write in his country of birth. If this is done, however, there will be significant additional coding costs since each overseas born response will need to be matched with an entry in the SACC coding index (see Coding Indexes in Classification and Coding). This is only likely to be appropriate in small scale data collection activities and in cases where data entry of verbatim responses is an administrative requirement, or where optical character recognition data capture technologies are used, allowing automatic matching of response data with index entries. The question module would be as follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] father born ?

Australia

Other - please specify:

Question module for minimum data

49. The standard question module for obtaining minimum data for the variable Country of Birth of Father follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] father born ?

Australia

Other country □

50. This question module is suitable for statistical and administrative collections where there is no requirement for detailed data on Country of Birth of Father. It is primarily recommended for collections that simply seek to determine whether or not a person's father is a migrant.

Standard input categories

Input categories for detailed data

51. The standard input categories for the Country of Birth of Father question module for detailed data are the base-level units of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) ([Cat. no. 1269.0](#)) and are represented by their four-digit codes. For operational reasons, supplementary codes also exist to enable incomplete responses to be coded at the four-digit level. Note this implies that the labels attached to the supplementary codes are input categories.

52. In the interests of compatibility and comparability, the ABS urges the use of the standard four-digit classification codes wherever possible. However, it is acknowledged that in certain circumstances a three-digit code is relevant for dissemination. In such circumstances the ABS recommends the use of the three-digit International Organization for Standardization (ISO) codes. To assist users, these three-digit codes are included in the SACC with a mapping to the standard four-digit codes. In circumstances where the ISO codes are used, the ABS urges that data be produced and presented within the framework of the SACC.

Input categories for minimum data

53. The standard input categories for the Country of Birth of Father question module for minimum data are:

- Australia
- Other country

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measurement issues and related classifications

[Contents](#) >> [Country of Birth of Father](#) >> Measurement issues and related classifications

Measurement issues

62. Changes in national boundaries create coding difficulties. In order to maintain consistency of coding in all applications it is preferable that each country response be coded according to national boundaries existing at the time of the data collection. Therefore, all responses relating to a country which currently exists, but which has undergone boundary changes at some time in the past, are coded to the named country. For example, all persons who give their country of birth as 'Poland' are coded to Poland, even though the boundaries of Poland may have changed since they were born and they may have in fact been born in a place that is now in Germany. Birthplace responses which relate to particular cities or regions which are now in one country, but which may have been in another country at the time of birth, should be coded to the country the city or region is in at the time of collection of the data. For example, the response 'Danzig' should be coded to Poland not to Germany

and it is included as such in the coding index.

63. The normal constraints affecting statistical collections, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors which may not permit the collection or output of data for some of the categories at the lower levels of the classification apply to the variable Country of Birth of Father.

Related classifications

64. Concordances have been prepared between the SACC and its precursor, the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). An additional concordance between the SACC and the United Nations Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use is also available to enable the conversion of Australian data for international comparisons. These concordances can be found in the SACC ([Cat. no. 1269.0](#)).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Output

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father >> Output](#)

Standard output categories

Output categories for detailed data

54. The hierarchical structure of the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)** (cat. no. 1269.0) allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the level of the classification which best suits their requirements. Data can be presented at major group level, minor group level, or the base or country level. If necessary, significant countries within a minor group can be presented separately while the remaining countries within the minor group are aggregated. For example, the third-level category 'Nauru' can be separately identified as an output category within the 'Micronesia' Minor Group, with the remaining third-level categories in this minor group aggregated in an 'Other Micronesia' category. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant minor groups within a major group.

55. Regardless of the level of aggregation envisaged for the dissemination of statistics, data should be captured, classified and stored at the base-level of the classification wherever possible. Collecting and storing data at the most detailed level of the classification allows the greatest flexibility for the output of statistics, enables more detailed and complex analysis, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that provides maximum flexibility for future use of the data.

56. However, the constraints affecting each statistical collection or other application, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors, may not permit the collection or output of data at the lower levels of the classification.

57. The SACC is intended to provide a single framework for classifying all statistical and administrative data by country for both population and economic statistics. Because the geographically based country groupings of the main structure are not always ideal for the presentation of data, alternative groupings have been included in the classification

document to meet specific output needs. These alternative country groupings are of two types:

- a set of standard country groupings based on economic and political requirements and comprising associations or organisations of formally recognised member countries (for example, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)); and
- a set of authorised standard output options for time series purposes or other data output needs (for example Former USSR).

58. Further information on the alternative standard country groupings can be found in the **SACC** (cat. no. 1269.0).

59. The following is an example of standard output categories for the nine major groups of the SACC, which have either significant minor groups (second-level categories) or countries (third-level categories) highlighted:

Oceania and Antarctica
Australia
New Zealand
Other Oceania and Antarctica

North-West Europe
United Kingdom
England
Scotland
Other United Kingdom

Western Europe
Germany
Netherlands
Other Western Europe

Other North-West Europe

Southern and Eastern Europe
Italy
Greece
Other Southern and Eastern Europe

North Africa and the Middle East
Lebanon
Other North Africa and the Middle East

South-East Asia
Malaysia
Philippines
Viet Nam
Other South-East Asia

North-East Asia
Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia)
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)
Hong Kong (SAR of China)
Other Chinese Asia

Japan and the Koreas

Southern and Central Asia
India
Other Southern and Central Asia

Americas

Sub-Saharan Africa

Output categories for minimum data

60. The standard output categories for the Country of Birth of Father question module for minimum data are:

- Born in Australia
- Born overseas

Supporting variables

61. Country of Birth of Father does not require any supporting variables but would not normally be asked if Country of Birth of Person and Country of Birth of Mother were not also asked. These two variables alone will not allow first and second generation migrants to be distinguished from each other unless Country of Birth of Person is also asked.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

References

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Father >> References](#)

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- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Responding to Diversity: Progress in implementing the Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society, DIMA, Canberra, 1999.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Religious Affiliation

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification and coding
- Collection methods
- Measurement issues and related classifications
- Output
- References

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation >> Introduction](#)

1. **Religious Affiliation** identifies the religious belief to which a person adheres or the religious group to which they belong. This variable is used to assess the composition of the Australian community in terms of religion.

2. Data relating to this variable is useful to religious organisations in planning their services to members, and in social research where it is one of the variables which can aid in indicating a person's cultural background. The others are Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Father, Country of Birth of Mother and the language variables First Language Spoken, Main Language Spoken at Home and Main Language Other than English Spoken at Home. Some agencies and organisations have found this data helpful in delivering more culturally relevant services to clients based on their religion.

3. The variable Religious Affiliation has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs as one of the standard set of indicators for use in measuring cultural and linguistic diversity. It is to be progressively implemented in relevant administrative and service settings to provide data to determine, measure and monitor service needs (in terms of access and equity requirements), and to provide a measure of cultural diversity in its broader sense.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation >> Underlying concepts](#)

Name of variable

4. The name of the variable is Religious Affiliation.

5. This variable has been previously referred to using the title 'Religious Denomination'. The term 'Religious Affiliation' is seen as more neutral and in keeping with a multicultural society, since the term 'denomination' is sometimes regarded as applying particularly to Christian religions.

Definition of variable

Nominal definition

6. The variable Religious Affiliation is defined as the religious beliefs and practices to which a person adheres or the religious group to which a person belongs.
7. Religious Affiliation is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'.

Operational definition

8. Operationally, Religious Affiliation is self-assessed and, therefore, measures the religion to which a person declares they have an affiliation. This includes an option for people who consider they do not belong to any religious group.

Discussion of conceptual issues

9. As Religious Affiliation is self-assessed, the data cannot give an objective measure of the strength of a person's affiliation with a religion and is subject to the respondent's interpretation of the question.

10. As it is considered a sensitive topic, answering a question about religious affiliation is optional in Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) censuses and surveys and care should be exercised when interpreting estimates based on this question. Non-response rates in the 1996 Census for this question were of the order of 8.7%.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification and coding

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation >> Classification and coding](#)

The classification criteria

11. The Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) (Cat. no. 1266.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Religious Affiliation.
12. Three classification criteria are used to form the categories of the classification:
 - similar religious beliefs;
 - similar religious practices; and/or
 - cultural heritage.

13. Further details regarding the classification criteria used in the classification of religious groups can be found in the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0).

The standard classification

14. As mentioned above, the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Religious Affiliation. The term 'religious group' is used in the ASCRG to describe groups of religions, separately identified religions, and subsets of religions such as religious denominations, administrative and organisational groupings, groups of churches, individual churches, and breakaway groups. They are described in the classification as religious groups in that each is comprised of a group of people who share common religious beliefs and practices, or belong to organisations that are unified by a common religious theme.

15. The classification has a three-level hierarchical structure. The most detailed level of the classification consists of 107 base or third-level units which are religious groups (as defined above). Included in the 107 third-level units are 9 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) categories which contain entities that are not listed separately in the classification.

16. The third-level categories of the classification are aggregated, based on similarities of religious beliefs, religious practices and/or cultural heritage, to form the second-level categories of the classification. The second level of the classification comprises 33 narrow groups of religions. Included in the 33 narrow groups are two 'other' categories which consist of religious groups that do not fit into a particular narrow group.

17. The first and most general level of the classification comprises 7 broad groups of religions, consisting of the world's five main religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism), one 'Other Religions' category and one 'No Religion' category.

18. For further details of the classification, see the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0).

The code structure

19. One, two or three, and four-digit codes are assigned to the first, second and third-level units of the classification respectively. The first digit identifies the Broad Group in which each Religious Group or Narrow Group is contained. The first two or three digits taken together identify the Narrow Group in which each Religious Group is contained. The four-digit codes represent the Religious Groups.

The following examples illustrate the coding scheme:

Broad Group	2 Christianity
Narrow Group	24 Pentecostal
Religious Group	2402 Assemblies of God
Broad Group	6 Other Religions
Narrow Group	605 Chinese Religions
Religious Group	6054 Taoism

20. For further details of the code structure, see the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0).

Residual categories and codes

21. In each Narrow Group a four-digit code, consisting of the two or three digits of the Narrow Group code followed by the digits '99' or '9', is reserved as a residual or the 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) category.

22. In each Broad Group, codes are also reserved for residual categories at the Narrow Group level. These codes consist of the Broad Group code followed by '9' or '99'.

23. Further details regarding the residual categories and codes used when coding religious affiliation data can be found in the ASCRG.(Cat. no. 1266.0).

Supplementary codes

24. The supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses in statistical collections. The codes are of three types:

- four-digit codes ending with one or more zeros;
- four-digit codes commencing with three zeros; and
- the four-digit code 2001.

25. Codes ending in zero are described as 'not further defined' (nfd) codes and are used to code responses to a question about religion which cannot be coded to the detailed (Religious Group) level of the classification but which can be coded to a higher level of the classification structure.

26. Four-digit codes commencing with '000' are supplementary codes included for operational purposes to facilitate the coding of responses such as inadequately described religious affiliation, etc., which present particular problems in that they cannot be allocated a Religious Group, Narrow Group or Broad Group code.

27. An additional supplementary code '2001': 'Apostolic Church, so described', has been created because the response 'Apostolic Church' lacks sufficient information to code it to the appropriate Narrow Group.

28. Further details regarding the supplementary codes used when coding religious affiliation data can be found in the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0).

Scope of the variable

29. The variable Religious Affiliation applies to all persons.

Application of the classification to other variables

30. The Religious Affiliation classification is not applicable to any other variable.

Coding procedures

31. Responses to the Religious Affiliation question are coded to the ASCRG (Cat. no. 1266.0) using the guidelines detailed in that publication. Each religion response is matched with an entry in the ASCRG Coding Index to determine the correct code. The coding index contains an exhaustive list of religious beliefs, groups, denominations, organisations and churches in Australia. Supplementary codes also exist to enable coding of inadequately described responses.

Coding indexes

32. A coding index has been developed to assist in the implementation and use of the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) and should be used when coding responses to questions relating to Religious Affiliation. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to religious groups and their correct classification codes. Use of the coding index enables responses to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

33. Copies of the coding index sorted in alphabetical and numerical (code) order can be found in the ASCRG publication (Cat. no. 1266.0) or in electronic format by contacting the Assistant Director, Social Classifications and Standards, Classifications and Data Standards Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics on phone (02) 6252 7074, fax (02) 6252 5281 or e-mail social.classifications@abs.gov.au.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents](#) >> Religious Affiliation >> Collection methods

Standard question module

34. There are two alternatives for the standard question module for Religious Affiliation, depending on space and cost considerations:

- Alternative one: a set of tick boxes and an 'Other - please specify' response category for writing a religion not specified in the tick box list;
- Alternative two: a tick box for 'No religion' and space for a write-in category.

Alternative two is more compact but will incur additional coding costs.

Alternative one

Q1. What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] religion?

(Answering this question is OPTIONAL)

For example, Salvation Army, Hinduism, Judaism or Humanism.
If no religion, mark last box.

Catholic (not Eastern Churches)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglican (Church of England)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniting Church	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presbyterian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greek Orthodox	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baptist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lutheran	<input type="checkbox"/>
Islam	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other - please specify:	
No religion	<input type="checkbox"/>

35. Answering a question about Religious Affiliation is optional in ABS censuses and surveys as it is considered a sensitive topic. Section 14 (2) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905, which addresses the issue of refusal or failure to answer questions, states that this 'does not apply in relation to a refusal or failure by a person to answer a question, or supply particulars, relating to the person's religious beliefs.' As such, in ABS collections the question must clearly state that answering is optional. Including some examples of possible responses may assist the respondent. It is also important to advise respondents that if they do not have a religion, they are still asked to answer the question.

36. The list of religions included with the question is based on the statistical significance of adherents in these groups as counted in the 1996 Census, and is designed for efficiency and economy when coding responses. The list implies no view by the ABS of the relative importance of any religious group or groups and will be reviewed periodically as different religions assume a greater or lesser significance in the Australian context. The qualifier 'not Eastern Churches' is added to the 'Catholic' response category in the list to distinguish between Roman (or Western) Catholic churches and the Eastern Catholic churches (eg. Maronite Catholic, Melkite Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic churches). The 'Other' category is included for those people who adhere or belong to a religion not listed, 'Please specify' and the space provided invites people to write in their response for the 'Other' category.

Alternative two

37. If there is a need for detailed information on religion but space constraints are an overriding consideration, the full tick box list can be replaced by space for respondents to write in their religion and a tick box for 'No religion'. If this is done, however, there will be significant additional coding costs since each response will need to be matched to an entry in the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) (ABS Cat. No. 1266.0) coding index. This is only likely to be appropriate in small scale data collection activities and in cases where data entry of verbatim responses is an administrative requirement or where optical character recognition data capture technologies are used, allowing automatic matching of response data with index entries. The question module would be as follows:

Q1. What is [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] religion?

(Answering this question is OPTIONAL)

For example, Judaism, Humanism, Islam, Greek Orthodox, Baptist, Church of England.

Please write in your religion or mark the box if no religion.

.....
No religion



Standard input categories

38. The standard input categories are the same as the categories of the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) (Cat. no. 1266.0). For operational reasons, supplementary codes also exist to enable inadequately described responses to be coded.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measurement issues and related classifications

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation >> Measurement issues and related classifications](#)

Measurement issues

44. No specific measurement issues apply to the variable Religious Affiliation beyond the normal constraints affecting statistical collections, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors which may not permit the collection or output of data for some of the categories at the lower levels of the classification.

Related classifications

45. Not applicable.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Output

[Contents >> Religious Affiliation >> Output](#)

Standard output categories

39. The hierarchical structure of the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) ([Cat. no. 1266.0](#)) allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the level of the classification which best suits their requirements. Data can be presented at broad group level, narrow group level, or the base religious group (third) level. If necessary, significant religious groups within a narrow group can be presented separately while the remaining religious groups within the narrow group are aggregated. For example, the third-level category 'Albanian Orthodox' can be separately identified as an output category within the

'Orthodox' Narrow Group, with the remaining third-level categories in this narrow group aggregated in an 'Other Orthodox' category. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant narrow groups within a broad group.

40. Regardless of the level of aggregation envisaged for the dissemination of data, wherever possible, data should be captured, classified and stored at the base level of the classification. Collecting and storing data at the most detailed level of the classification allows the greatest flexibility for the output of data, enables more detailed and complex analysis, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that may prove historically useful.

41. However, the constraints affecting each statistical collection or other application, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors, may not permit the collection or output of data at the lower levels of the classification. Nevertheless, the use of a standard classification will enhance data comparability even though it may not always be possible to disseminate the data at the most detailed level.

42. The following is an example of standard output categories for the seven broad groups of the ASCRG, which have either significant narrow groups (second-level categories) or religious groups (third-level categories) highlighted:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
 - Anglican
 - Baptist
 - Catholic
 - Western Catholic
 - Other Catholic
 - Lutheran
 - Orthodox
 - Greek Orthodox
 - Macedonian Orthodox
 - Russian Orthodox
 - Serbian Orthodox
 - Other Orthodox
 - Presbyterian and Reformed
 - Uniting Church
 - Pentecostal
 - Other Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Other Religions
- No Religion
 - Atheism
 - Other No Religion

Supporting variables

43. Religious Affiliation requires no supporting variables.

[Contents](#) >> [Religious Affiliation](#) >> [References](#)

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996 Census Dictionary, **Cat. no. 2901.0**, ABS, Canberra, 1996.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, **Cat. no. 1266.0**, ABS, Canberra, 1996.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, **Cat. no. 1289.0**, ABS, Canberra, 1999.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Australian Citizenship

[Contents](#) >> [Australian Citizenship](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification and coding
- Collection methods
- Measurement issues and related classifications
- Output
- References

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents](#) >> [Australian Citizenship](#) >> [Introduction](#)

1. **Australian Citizenship** is the variable which describes whether or not people are Australian citizens.
2. A question on nationality was first asked in the 1921 Census of Population and Housing. Respondents were required to indicate of which nation they were subjects by means of birthplace, parentage or naturalisation. From 1933 to 1976, nationality was asked. From 1976, the question has used the term 'Citizenship'. In the 1981 Census, respondents were required to state their country of citizenship, whereas the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census questions asked only whether the person was an Australian citizen.
3. Australian citizenship data for smaller geographic areas such as Collection Districts (CDs) or Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) are only available from the Census. Citizenship data at these lower geographic levels is regarded as essential by organisations such as the Australian Electoral Commission, various state electoral commissions and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMIA). Small area data on Australian citizenship

enables the tracking of migration patterns of Australian citizens over time, gives an accurate indication of what proportion of the population is on the electoral roll and, from this latter information, enables electoral boundary redistribution.

4. Australian citizenship data is also collected for the purpose of assessing the number of people who are not Australian citizens but who may be residentially eligible to apply for citizenship.

5. Although Australian Citizenship is not directly related to any other variable, it can be used in conjunction with other "Ethnicity" variables, for example, Country of Birth of Person and Year of Arrival in Australia. This is because Australian Citizenship, for those born overseas, is an indirect measure of participation in Australian society.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> Underlying concepts](#)

Name of variable

6. The standard name of the variable is Australian Citizenship.

Definition of variable

Nominal definition

7. The Australian Citizenship Act 1948 determines who holds Australian citizenship. Australian citizenship is a person's status in relation to Australia and carries with it certain responsibilities and privileges. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation).

8. Australian Citizenship is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'. That is, it is an attribute of an individual as opposed to a family or household.

Operational definition

9. The operational definition for Australian Citizenship is the same as the nominal definition. The accuracy with which it is measured depends on the respondent's understanding of the question. Proof of Australian citizenship could only be confirmed by sighting appropriate documentation. Asking people to provide documentation, however, is neither practical nor appropriate in self-enumerated and interview-based surveys.

Discussion of conceptual issues

10. The most important conceptual issue associated with Australian Citizenship is whether a respondent understands that citizenship represents a person's legal status in relation to

Australia. The legal requirements determining citizenship are complex and liable to change over time. For example, with the exception of children of foreign diplomats, people born in Australia before 20 August 1986 acquired Australian citizenship. After that date, a person born in Australia acquires citizenship only if:

- at least one parent, at the time of the person's birth, was either an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia; or
- neither parent was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of the person's birth, but the person has been ordinarily resident in Australia from the time of birth until his or her tenth birthday.

11. Although 'Australian Citizenship' is not directly related to any variable, it can be used in conjunction with other "ethnicity" variables, eg. Country of Birth of Person and Year of Arrival in Australia. This is because 'Australian Citizenship', for those born overseas, is an indirect measure of participation in Australian society.

12. Besides the collection of Australian Citizenship data using the standard question, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces citizenship data based on Australian overseas arrivals and departures administrative data collected by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA). All people arriving in, or departing from, Australia are required to complete prescribed questionnaires in the form of Incoming and Outgoing Passenger cards. These cards provide information to DIMA for administrative purposes and serve as the source of statistics on overseas arrivals and departures. In some cases, pre-recorded visa data is used in lieu of passenger card data by DIMA. Citizenship is derived from responses given to the question 'Nationality as shown in Passport'. Data on 'Australian Citizenship' of overseas arrivals and departures are therefore not necessarily comparable with data collected using the standard question module, as some travellers may have dual citizenship and travel using a passport that is not Australian.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification and coding

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> Classification and coding](#)

The classification criteria

13. The classification criterion is whether or not a person meets the requirements for Australian citizenship, as set out in The Australian Citizenship Act 1948, and is eligible to call themselves an Australian citizen. The categories of the classification are constructed by dividing the population into two groups - those who are Australian Citizens and those who are not Australian Citizens.

The standard classification

14. The standard classification for Australian Citizenship is a flat or single-level classification consisting of two categories, as follows:

- Australian Citizen
- Not an Australian Citizen

The code structure

15. The code structure for the classification is:

- 1 Australian Citizen
- 2 Not an Australian Citizen

Residual categories and codes

16. Not applicable.

Supplementary codes

17. The following supplementary code is used to code inadequately described responses and non-responses:

- 0 Not stated/Inadequately described

Scope of the variable

18. The variable Australian Citizenship applies to all persons.

Application of the classification to other variables

19. The Australian Citizenship classification is not applicable to any other variable.

Coding procedures

20. Responses to the Australian Citizenship question are self-coded to the classification.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> Collection methods](#)

Standard question module

21. The standard question module for determining Australian Citizenship follows:

Q1. [Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] an Australian citizen?

Yes, Australian Citizen
No

22. The standard question is recommended for all household-based surveys, whether self-enumerated or interview-based, and other statistical and administrative collections.

Standard input categories

23. The standard input categories for Australian Citizenship are the same as the standard classification and also includes the supplementary category, 'Not stated/Inadequately described':

- Australian Citizen
- Not an Australian Citizen
- Not stated/Inadequately described

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measurement issues and related classifications

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> Measurement issues and related classifications](#)

Measurement issues

27. See the Operational Definition in the topic Underlying concepts.

Related classifications

28. There are no related classifications.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Output

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> Output](#)

Standard output categories

24. The standard output categories for Australian Citizenship data are the same as the standard classification and may include the supplementary category, if applicable:

- Australian Citizen
- Not an Australian Citizen
- Not stated/Inadequately described

25. It is recognised, however, that the output category names may be too long for some uses. Therefore, it is permissible to abbreviate the output category labels, where no confusion would arise, as follows:

- Australian
- Not Australian
- Not stated

Supporting variables

26. Australian Citizenship does not require any supporting variables.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

References

[Contents >> Australian Citizenship >> References](#)

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996 Census Dictionary, **Cat. no. 2901.0**, ABS, Canberra, 1996..
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Cat. no. 3401.0, ABS, Canberra.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, **Cat. no. 1289.0**, ABS, Canberra, 1999.
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[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Country of Birth of Mother

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification and coding
- Collection methods
- Measurement issues and related classifications
- Output
- References

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> Introduction](#)

1. Since the time of British settlement, cultural and language diversity in Australia has been widely influenced by immigration. There is significant community interest in measuring the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population and in identifying the characteristics of particular migrant community groups. An important element of cultural and language diversity in Australia is the extent to which second generation Australians retain their parents' culture, ethnicity or language. Retention of cultural and language characteristics is determined by the variables Country of Birth of Mother and Country of Birth of Father, in association with variables such as language variables and Religious Affiliation.
2. Migrants and their descendants have been identified by programme developers and service providers as forming population groups that are likely to experience disadvantage when seeking to obtain equal access to government and community programmes and services in Australia. Data relating to Country of Birth of Mother can thus be used to determine, measure and monitor service needs of second generation Australians (in terms of access and equity requirements), when used with other variables such as Country of Birth of Father, language variables, Proficiency in Spoken English, and Religious Affiliation.
3. It should be noted however, that Country of Birth of Mother when used with a range of other variables is able to measure cultural diversity in its broader sense. It may indicate the extent to which persons from certain backgrounds are associated with advantage, as well as measuring disadvantage in terms of access to services.
4. The variable Country of Birth of Mother has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs as one of the standard set of indicators for use in measuring cultural and linguistic diversity. The set is to be progressively implemented in administrative and service settings to provide data to determine, measure and monitor service needs (access and equity requirements), and to provide a measure of cultural diversity in its broader sense.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

Name of variable

5. The standard name of the variable is 'Country of Birth of Mother'.
6. This nomenclature was changed from 'Birthplace of Mother' on 16 July 1999 to better describe the geographic units (countries) for which responses are obtained. The term 'Birthplace' could equally describe subsets of countries such as states, regions or towns.
7. It should be noted that the name change of the variable does not affect the definition, scope or meaning of the concept being measured and that 'Country of Birth of Mother' statistics and 'Birthplace of Mother' statistics are entirely compatible.

Definition of variable

Nominal definition

8. Nominally, Country of Birth of Mother is defined as the country in which a person's mother was born.
9. Country of Birth of Mother is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'.

Operational definition

10. Operationally, the variable Country of Birth of Mother is defined as the country the respondent identifies as being the one in which their mother was born.
11. The issue of what constitutes a country is addressed in the topic Classification and coding, or see the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Discussion of conceptual issues

12. Country of Birth of Mother identifies the country in which a person's mother was born. This variable is used, in association with variables such as Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Father and First Language Spoken, to measure the extent to which an individual retains their parents' culture, ethnicity or language.
13. Country of Birth of Mother is closely related to the standard variable Country of Birth of Father. The two variables are generally asked together in collections, with Country of Birth of Father traditionally asked first. If space constraints only allow for one question on parents' birthplace, it is recommended that Country of Birth of Mother be asked as, in practice, people are more likely to know their mother's country of birth with a greater degree of certainty than their father's country of birth.

Classification and coding

Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> Classification and coding

The classification criteria

14. The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Country of Birth of Mother.

15. Three classification criteria are used to form the categories of the main classification structure:

- the geographic proximity of countries (the basic criterion);
- the similarity of countries in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics, and;
- the desirability that groups of countries lie within a single geographic continent (conventionally defined).

16. The classification criteria and the way they have been applied has produced a main classification structure that can be described in conventional terms: countries grouped to form minor groups on the basis of geographic proximity and similarity in terms of cultural, social, economic and political characteristics; and minor groups aggregated to form major groups on the basis of geographic proximity and a degree of similarity in terms of their characteristics.

17. Further details regarding the classification criteria can be found in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) .

The standard classification

18. As mentioned above, the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0) is used when collecting, aggregating and disseminating data relating to the variable Country of Birth of Mother. The term 'country' is used in the SACC to describe fully independent countries (sovereign nation states), administrative subdivisions of the United Kingdom (ie. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), external territories and dependencies of independent countries, and recognised geographic areas of which the ownership or control is in dispute.

19. The classification has a three-level hierarchical structure. At the time of writing, the third and most detailed level of the classification consists of 244 base or third-level units which are discrete countries. Included in the 244 third-level units are five 'not elsewhere classified' (nec) categories, which contain entities that are not listed separately in the classification.

20. The second level of the classification comprises 27 minor groups, which are groups of neighbouring countries similar in terms of social, cultural, economic and political characteristics. Each minor group lies wholly within the boundaries of a geographic continent. On average, minor groups contain nine countries, with individual minor groups containing between 1 and 27 countries.

21. The first and most general level of the classification comprises nine major groups which are formed by aggregating geographically proximate minor groups and, therefore, comprise countries which are broadly similar in terms of social, cultural, economic and political

characteristics.

22. Further details regarding the standard classification and code structure can be found in the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

The code structure

23. One, two and four digit codes are assigned to the first, second and third level units of the classification respectively. The first digit identifies the Major Group in which each Country or Minor Group is contained. The first two digits taken together identify the Minor Group in which each Country is contained. The four digit codes represent each of the Countries.

24. The following example demonstrates the code scheme for the countries included within the Minor Group Southern Europe which is one of three minor groups of the Major Group Southern and Eastern Europe.

3 SOUTHERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

31 Southern Europe

- 3101 Andorra
- 3102 Gibraltar
- 3103 Holy See
- 3104 Italy
- 3105 Malta
- 3106 Portugal
- 3107 San Marino
- 3108 Spain

25. It should be noted that countries are not allocated codes ending with the digits '0' or '9'. These are special purpose codes for residual categories and supplementary codes (see below).

26. For further details of the code structure, see the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Residual categories and codes

27. Any geographic area within the region described by a minor group, which is not separately identified in the classification, and not part of one of the separately identified countries, can be included in the residual or 'not elsewhere classified' category. These 'not elsewhere classified' categories have codes ending with the digits '99'. Note that residual categories are part of the standard classification

28. Because of the comprehensive coverage of the SACC, it has been necessary to create residual categories in five instances only. An example of a residual category and code is:

1599 - Polynesia (excludes Hawaii), not elsewhere classified (nec)

(Note that Baker Island is Polynesia and has the code 1599, but is not listed separately in the classification.)

29. Further details regarding the residual categories and codes used when coding country of birth data can be found in the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Supplementary codes

30. In the SACC, supplementary codes have a more complex structure than many of the other standard variables. The supplementary codes are used to represent 'not further defined' (nfd), 'inadequately described' and 'not stated' responses.

31. An example of a 'not further defined' category and code (which forms part of the code structure in paragraph 24 above) is:

3100 - Southern Europe, not further defined (nfd)

32. Note that the labels attached to the supplementary codes are not strictly part of the standard classification.

33. Further details regarding the supplementary codes can be found in the SACC (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Scope of the variable

34. The variable Country of Birth of Mother applies to all persons.

Application of the classification to other variables

35. In addition to Country of Birth of Mother, the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) can be used to classify a variety of variables such as Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Father, Country of Residence, Country of Future Residence, Country of Citizenship, Country of Embarkation, Country of Disembarkation and Country of Last Residence (for immigration and overseas travel statistics). To ensure comparability of data for a range of related variables, the classification should be used in all cases where Australian social, labour and demographic statistics are classified by country.

Coding procedures

36. All Country of Birth responses are coded to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (Cat. no. 1269.0) using the guidelines detailed in that publication. Responses are matched with entries in the SACC coding index to determine the correct code.

Coding indexes

37. A coding index has been developed to assist in the implementation and use of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) and should be used when coding responses to questions relating to Country of Birth. It contains a comprehensive list of the most probable responses to questions relating to countries and their correct classification codes. Use of the coding index enables responses to be coded accurately and quickly to the appropriate category of the classification.

38. Copies of the coding index sorted in alphabetical and numerical (code) order can be

found in the SACC publication (Cat. no. 1269.0), or in electronic format by contacting the Assistant Director, Social Classifications and Standards, Classifications and Data Standards Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics on phone (02) 6252 7074, fax (02) 6252 5281 or e-mail social.classifications@abs.gov.au.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> Collection methods](#)

Standard question module

39. Country of Birth of Mother is closely related to the variable Country of Birth of Father, and the two questions are generally asked together in collections with the Country of Birth of Father question traditionally asked first. If space constraints only allow enough room for one question on parents' country of birth, it is recommended that Country of Birth of Mother be asked as, in practice, people are more likely to know their mother's country of birth with a greater degree of certainty than their father's country of birth.

40. There are two standard question modules for Country of Birth of Mother:

- The Question Module for Detailed Data (see below) elicits the most detailed responses and data on Country of Birth of Mother.

There are two alternatives for the Question Module for Detailed Data which may be used depending on space and cost considerations:

- Alternative one: a set of tick boxes and an 'Other - please specify' response category for writing a country not specified in the tick box list;
- Alternative two: a tick box for Australia and an 'Other - please specify' write-in category.

Alternative two is more compact but will incur additional coding costs.

- The Question Module for Minimum Data (see below) only contains the tick box options 'Australia' and 'Other country' and therefore does not collect detail on countries other than Australia.

Question module for detailed data

Alternative one

41. This standard question module is recommended for all household-based surveys and other statistical and administrative collections designed to collect extensive data on Country of Birth of Mother.

42. The standard question module for obtaining detailed data for the variable Country of Birth of Mother follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] mother born ?

- Australia
- England
- Italy
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- Greece
- Vietnam
- Netherlands
- Lebanon
- Philippines

Other - please specify:

43. The countries provided with this module have been included primarily on the basis of their statistical significance in the Australian context. These countries accounted for over 80% of all Country of Birth of Mother responses recorded in the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. This order and list of countries may change more rapidly than the classification structure. Although China is a country in which a large proportion of Australians' mothers were born, it is excluded from the list because it is not the only country in which 'Chinese' people may be born and, if included, may bias responses. For example, if China were included in the list, Taiwan and Hong Kong would also need to be included otherwise persons with a Chinese mother born in these countries may be induced to mark the China tick box option.

44. The use of this list ensures compatibility across collections and minimises coding costs. This list will be reviewed periodically as different countries assume a greater or lesser significance in the Australian context as a result of changing migration patterns. The list of tick box options provided as part of the standard question module is appropriate within the Australia-wide context. However, some users may wish to capture country of birth of mother data in specific areas which have a different population composition than Australia as a whole. In these instances Census small area data can be used to identify a list of more appropriate tick boxes. Where an instrument using this question module (Question module for detailed data, alternative one) collects 'Country of birth of person' and 'Country of birth of father', as well as 'Country of birth of mother', it is reasonable to substitute the response list for 'Country of birth of person' for the response options tailored for each question, even though this may reduce coding efficiency.

45. Each response to the 'Other - please specify' option will need to be matched to an entry in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Coding Index (see Coding Indexes in Classification and Coding).

Alternative two

46. If there is a need for detailed information but space constraints are an over-riding consideration then the tick boxes can be deleted (except the tick box for Australia) and respondents with an overseas born mother can write in her country of birth. If this is done,

however, there will be significant additional coding costs since each overseas born response will need to be matched with an entry in the SACC coding index (see Coding Indexes in Classification and Coding). This is only likely to be appropriate in small scale data collection activities and in cases where data entry of verbatim responses is an administrative requirement, or where optical character recognition data capture technologies are used, allowing automatic matching of response data with index entries. The question module would be as follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] mother born ?

Australia

Other - please specify:

Question module for minimum data

47. The standard question module for obtaining minimum data for the variable Country of Birth of Mother follows:

Q1. In which country was [your] [the person's] [(name)'s] mother born ?

Australia

Other country

48. This question module is suitable for statistical and administrative collections where there is no requirement for detailed data on Country of Birth of Mother. It is primarily recommended for collections that simply seek to determine whether or not a person's mother is a migrant.

Standard input categories

Input categories for detailed data

49. The standard input categories for the Country of Birth of Mother question module for detailed data are the base-level units of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) ([Cat. no. 1269.0](#)) and are represented by their four-digit codes. For operational reasons, supplementary codes also exist to enable incomplete responses to be coded at the four-digit level. Note this implies that the labels attached to the supplementary codes are input categories.

50. In the interests of compatibility and comparability, the ABS urges the use of the standard four-digit classification codes wherever possible. However, it is acknowledged that in certain circumstances a three-digit code is relevant for dissemination. In such circumstances the ABS recommends the use of the three-digit International Organization for Standardization (ISO) codes. To assist users, these three-digit codes are included in the SACC with a mapping to the standard four-digit codes. In circumstances where the ISO codes are used, the ABS urges that data be produced and presented within the framework of the SACC.

Input categories for minimum data

51. The standard input categories for the Country of Birth of Mother question module for minimum data are:

- Australia

- Other country

[Previous Page](#)[Next Page](#)

Measurement issues and related classifications

Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> Measurement issues and related classifications

Measurement issues

60. Changes in national boundaries create coding difficulties. In order to maintain consistency of coding in all applications it is preferable that each country response be coded according to national boundaries existing at the time of the data collection. Therefore, all responses relating to a country which currently exists, but which has undergone boundary changes at some time in the past, are coded to the named country. For example, all persons who give their country of birth as 'Poland' are coded to Poland, even though the boundaries of Poland may have changed since they were born and they may have in fact been born in a place that is now in Germany. Birthplace responses which relate to particular cities or regions which are now in one country, but which may have been in another country at the time of birth, should be coded to the country the city or region is in at the time of collection of the data. For example, the response 'Danzig' should be coded to Poland not to Germany and it is included as such in the coding index.

61. The normal constraints affecting statistical collections, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors which may not permit the collection or output of data for some of the categories at the lower levels of the classification apply to the variable Country of Birth of Mother.

Related classifications

62. Concordances have been prepared between the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) and its precursor, the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). An additional concordance between the SACC and the United Nations Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use is also available to enable the conversion of Australian data for international comparisons. These concordances can be found in the SACC ([Cat. no. 1269.0](#)).

[Previous Page](#)[Next Page](#)

Output

Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> Output

Standard output categories

Output categories for detailed data

52. The hierarchical structure of the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)** (cat. no. 1269.0) allows users the flexibility to output statistics at the level of the classification which best suits their requirements. Data can be presented at major group level, minor group level, or the base or country level. If necessary, significant countries within a minor group can be presented separately while the remaining countries within the minor group are aggregated. For example, the third-level category 'Nauru' can be separately identified as an output category within the 'Micronesia' Minor Group, with the remaining third-level categories in this minor group aggregated in an 'Other Micronesia' category. The same principle can be adopted to highlight significant minor groups within a major group.

53. Regardless of the level of aggregation envisaged for the dissemination of statistics, data should be captured, classified and stored at the base level of the classification wherever possible. Collecting and storing data at the most detailed level of the classification allows the greatest flexibility for the output of statistics, enables more detailed and complex analyses, facilitates comparisons with previous data using different classifications, and preserves information that provides maximum flexibility for future use of the data.

54. However, the constraints affecting each statistical collection or other application, such as problems with confidentiality or standard errors, may not permit the collection or output of data at the lower levels of the classification.

55. The SACC is intended to provide a single framework for classifying all statistical and administrative data by country for both population and economic statistics. Because the geographically based country groupings of the main structure are not always ideal for the presentation of data, alternative groupings have been included in the classification document to meet specific output needs. These country groupings are of two types:

- a set of standard country groupings based on economic and political requirements and comprising associations or organisations of formally recognised member countries (for example, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)); and
- a set of authorised standard output options for time series purposes or other data output needs (for example Former USSR).

56. Further information on the alternative standard country groupings can be found in the **SACC** (cat. no. 1269.0).

57. The following is an example of standard output categories for the nine major groups of the SACC, which have either significant minor groups (second-level categories) or countries (third-level categories) highlighted:

Oceania and Antarctica
 Australia
 New Zealand
 Other Oceania and Antarctica

North-West Europe
 United Kingdom
 England
 Scotland
 Other United Kingdom

 Western Europe
 Germany
 Netherlands
 Other Western Europe

 Other North-West Europe

Southern and Eastern Europe
 Italy
 Greece
 Other Southern and Eastern Europe

North Africa and the Middle East
 Lebanon
 Other North Africa and the Middle East

South-East Asia
 Malaysia
 Philippines
 Viet Nam
 Other South-East Asia

North-East Asia
 Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia)
 China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)
 Hong Kong (SAR of China)
 Other Chinese Asia
 Japan and the Koreas

Southern and Central Asia
 India
 Other Southern and Central Asia

Americas

Sub-Saharan Africa

Output categories for minimum data

58. The standard output categories for the Country of Birth of Mother question module for minimum data are:

- Born in Australia
- Born overseas

Supporting variables

59. Country of Birth of Mother does not require any supporting variables but would normally be asked if Country of Birth of Person and Country of Birth of Father were not also asked. These two variables alone will not allow first and second generation migrants to be distinguished from each other unless Country of Birth of Person is also asked.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

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[Contents >> Country of Birth of Mother >> References](#)

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[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Indigenous Status

[Contents >> Indigenous Status](#)

This section contains the following subsection :

- Introduction
- Underlying concepts
- Classification and coding
- Collection methods
- Measurement issues and related classifications
- Output
- Glossary of terms
- References

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Introduction](#)

1. Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupy a unique place in Australian society and culture. Accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in well-being and to account for government expenditure in this area.

2. The purpose of the Indigenous Status standard is to enable the provision of consistent information from both statistical and administrative sources about people who identify as being of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The standard can be used when collecting and disseminating data on births, deaths, hospital admissions, the labour force, the economy, education and crime and justice and in a range of other applications.

3. The standard is recommended for use by the ABS and other organisations for statistical and administrative data collections. Organisations wishing to determine the eligibility of individuals for particular benefits, services or rights will need to make their own judgements about the suitability of the standard measure for these purposes, having regard to the specific eligibility criteria of the program concerned.

4. The variable Indigenous Status has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs as one of the four Minimum Core Indicators of the standard set of indicators for use in measuring cultural and linguistic diversity. The set is to be progressively implemented in administrative and service settings to provide data to determine, measure and monitor service needs (access and equity requirements), and to provide a measure of cultural diversity in its broader sense.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Underlying concepts

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Underlying concepts](#)

NAME OF THE VARIABLE

4. The standard term for this variable is 'Indigenous Status'.

5. The 'Indigenous Status' of persons is ascertained by the application of the two concepts which are addressed in the standard. The standard terms for these two concepts are:

- Aboriginal Origin
- Torres Strait Islander Origin

6. Australia has two groups of Indigenous people - the Aboriginal peoples and the Torres Strait Islanders. This variable indicates whether or not an individual is of Aboriginal origin or Torres Strait Islander origin. Since the term 'Aboriginality' excludes Torres Strait Islanders it is not suitable as a title for the variable. 'Indigenous Status' best captures this concept. 'Indigenous' is a commonly understood term covering all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The acronym 'ATSI' should be avoided as it is offensive to some Indigenous peoples; the ABS has received a written request from the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) not to use this term. See **Measurement Issues** for detailed guidelines on terminology.

7. 'Indigenous Status' is the term the ABS uses when referring to the variable which indicates whether or not a person identifies as being of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. It has replaced the following terms:

- Aboriginality
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander origin
- ATSI origin

8. The terms 'Indigenous' and 'Aboriginal(s)' should always be capitalised when referring to Indigenous Australians and Australian Aboriginal(s). These terms do not need capitals when used in a general sense to refer to the original inhabitants of other countries.

DEFINITION OF THE VARIABLE

Nominal definition

9. The following definition, commonly known as 'The Commonwealth Definition', was given in a High Court judgement in the case of Commonwealth v Tasmania (1983) 46 ALR 625.

'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.'

10. The Commonwealth Definition is used as the nominal definition.

11. Indigenous Status is an attribute of the counting unit 'person'.

Operational definition

12. In statistical collections and most administrative collections, it is not feasible to collect information on the community acceptance component of the nominal definition. Therefore, the community acceptance criterion is not included in the operational definition.

13. The operational definition of Indigenous Status is:

' Indigenous Status indicates whether or not a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.'

14. The term 'origin', when used in the context of the operational definition, is considered to relate to people's Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and for some, but not all, their cultural identity.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Classification and coding

[Contents](#) >> Indigenous Status >> Classification and coding

THE CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

15. Indigenous Status has two classification criteria:

- Aboriginal Origin
- Torres Strait Islander Origin

THE STANDARD CLASSIFICATION AND CODE STRUCTURE

16. The standard classification for Indigenous Status has a hierarchical structure comprising two levels. There are four categories at the detailed level of the classification which are grouped into two categories at the broader level. The classification is as follows:

Indigenous
 Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander Origin
 Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal Origin
 Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin
Non-Indigenous
 Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander Origin

The code structure

17. The code structure follows the standard classification:
- 1 Indigenous
 - 11 Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander Origin
 - 12 Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal Origin
 - 13 Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin
 - 2 Non-Indigenous
 - 24 Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander Origin

Residual categories and codes

18. Not Applicable.

Supplementary codes

19. The supplementary categories are reserved for 'Not stated/Inadequately described' responses when coding data to the Indigenous Status classification.

- 0 Not stated/Inadequately defined
- 09 Not stated/Inadequately defined

20. Supplementary codes should not be available as valid responses. In particular, they should not appear as mark boxes on self enumeration forms and should not be used for prompting respondents in interviewer conducted collections. However, supplementary codes can be used for operational purposes in the following circumstances:

- primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data;
- where an answer was refused;
- where the question was not able to be asked because the client was unable to communicate or a person who knows the client was not available.

21. Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) systems in particular may require supplementary codes for handling the circumstances identified above.

SCOPE OF THE CLASSIFICATION

22. The variable Indigenous Status applies to all persons.

APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION TO OTHER VARIABLES

23. Not applicable.

CODING PROCEDURES

24. Responses to the Indigenous Status question are self-coded to the appropriate category of the classification. Only the second digit of the two-digit code need be used for data input and storage purposes.

25. The Indigenous Status question allows for more than one response. The procedure for coding multiple responses is as follows:

- If the respondent marks 'No' and either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander', then the response should be coded to either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as indicated (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).
- If the respondent marks both the 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' boxes, then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin'.
- If the respondent marks all three boxes ('No', 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander'), then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

26. The multi-response approach may be problematical in some data collections. For example, when data are collected by interview or using screen based data capture systems. An additional response category 'Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' may be included if this better suits the data collection practices of the agency concerned.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Collection methods

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Collection methods](#)

STANDARD QUESTION MODULE

27. The following question is the basis for the standard question module:

Q1. [Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

(For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, Torres Strait Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> |

28. It is recommended that this question be asked directly wherever possible. However, various articulations of the question can be used in circumstances where a close relative, friend, or another member of the household is answering on behalf of an absent person. Respondents who answer for an absent person must have a reasonable knowledge of the absent person and feel confident about identifying the person's Indigenous Status.

29. Supplementary codes such as 'Not stated/inadequately described' should not be available as valid responses but can be used in data collections for operational purposes. Refer to **Classification and Coding, Supplementary Codes** for more information.

30. It is not possible to determine a person's Indigenous Status on the basis of appearance, surname or birthplace. To achieve an acceptable quality of Indigenous Status data, it is

imperative that interviewers endeavour to apply the standard question module to all respondents and to record every response regardless of the person's appearance, name, country of birth or other perceptions about the person's background. Interviewer instructions and training are recommended as a means of minimising inappropriate discretion in applying the Indigenous Status question.

31. While interviewers should endeavour to apply the standard question module to all respondents, it is recognised that there are situations where data are collected as the by-product of an interview or counselling session dealing with sensitive issues. In these cases, clients may be distressed or confused and the service provider may consider it inappropriate to ask certain questions. If the Indigenous Status question is not asked under these circumstances, the interviewer should leave all response categories blank and the non response should be processed using the most appropriate supplementary code.

32. The terms 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' are used in the question wording because they are widely accepted throughout Australia and are not offensive to Indigenous people. These terms should not be replaced in the question with other terms such as 'Koori' as terms relating to particular Aboriginal groups do not cover Torres Strait Islander people and other Aboriginal groups. Indigenous people who do not identify with alternative terms may resent having the terms applied to them or may respond 'No' to the question.

33. In circumstances where there is a need to collect data on particular Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander groups, such as Koori, Murri, or Meryam, the standard Indigenous Status question should continue to be asked first. It can be followed by an additional question that asks for the specific Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island group or groups with which the respondent identifies. Only those people who indicate they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island origin should be asked any additional questions of this type. It is not the function of the Indigenous Status standard to collect data relating to particular Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander groups, and a standard question and set of response categories to collect this information have not been developed.

Self completed collections

34. Various articulations of the standard question are recommended to address the following circumstances in self completed collections. In each circumstance, the standard response categories and instructions should be used. An additional 'Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' response category may be used if a data capture system is used that is unable to deal with multiple marked boxes.

- Question answered by the person

This question wording is recommended when it is known that the person filling in the form is the subject:

Q1. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- Someone else who knows the person well answers

This question wording is recommended when another member of the household answers for the person. For example, a family member may complete a census form on behalf of his or her family.

Q1. Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- Person is not present and someone else transcribes response from administrative data

This question wording is recommended when the form is being completed by a third person from information available on administrative databases such as criminal justice collections, hospital records and schools data:

Q1. Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Interviewer conducted collections

35. For interview conducted collections in which the Indigenous Status of **one person** is collected, the following question set is recommended:

Q1. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/> (No more questions)

Q2. Are you of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/>
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/>

36. The first question is used to sequence out non-Indigenous persons. The second question is used to determine the specific Indigenous origin of the person. A benefit of this approach is that the interviewer is not required to prompt the respondent with response categories.

37. The 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' response category can be included or excluded in interviewer conducted collections depending on which option best suits the data collection practices of the agency concerned. Including the additional response category ensures that respondents are aware of the option to identify as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

38. Various articulations of the standard question are recommended to address the following circumstances:

- Person is present and answers

This question wording is recommended where it is known that the person being interviewed is the subject:

Q1. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Q2. Are you of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

- Person is not present and someone else who knows the person well answers

The following question wording is recommended when another member of the household answers for the person. Examples of such incidents include: parents answering for children, or relatives answering in hospital situations.

Q1. Is [the person] [(name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Q2. Is [the person] [(name)] of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

- Person is dead and someone else answers (e.g. death information form)

In these circumstances a close relative or friend should answer. Only if a relative or friend is unavailable should the undertaker or other such person answer. The suggested question wording follows:

Q1. Was [the person] [(name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Q2. Was [the person] [(name)] of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

- Person is an infant and parents answer (e.g. perinatal information form)

Obviously, infants cannot answer on their own behalf. Therefore, it is recommended that parents are asked:

Q1. Is [the baby's] [(name)'s] mother of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Q2. Is [the baby's] [(name)'s] mother of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

and

Q1. Is [the baby's] [(name)'s] father of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Q2. Is [the baby's] [(name)'s] father of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

39. For interview conducted collections in which the Indigenous Status of **more than one person** is collected from a household representative, the following question set is recommended:

Q1. Is anyone who (usually lives here) (or) (is visiting here) of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Yes
No

Q2. Who are they?

Question 3 is asked of each person identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Q3. [Are you] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin, or both?

Aboriginal
Torres Strait Islander
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

40. The first question is used to sequence out households in which no Australian Indigenous people usually live (or are visiting). The second question is used to identify those usual residents (and visitors) of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. This approach eliminates the need to repeatedly ask the Indigenous Status question of each individual in a

household when data are collected on a single household form. It is particularly advantageous when collecting from areas with a large proportion of non-Indigenous households.

STANDARD INPUT CATEGORIES

41. The input categories for Indigenous Status are derived from the answers to the relevant question in the question module and also includes the supplementary category:

- No
- Yes, Aboriginal
- Yes, Torres Strait Islander
- Not Stated/Inadequately described

42. See the section on Appropriate Labels, in the topic **Output**, for further information on alternative terminology.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measurement issues and related classifications

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Measurement issues and related classifications](#)

MEASUREMENT ISSUES

Data quality

46. Collection of Indigenous Status in non-ABS collections is subject to a number of data quality considerations, in particular poor response rates and issues arising in situations where information is gathered from third parties. Not stated responses are not always genuine cases of non-response. They may mask uncertainty and doubt as to ones origin or result from the question not being asked. In the same way, 'No' responses may be seen by respondents as the default'. Thus the 'Non-indigenous' category may, in practice, include some individuals about whom there is uncertainty regarding their Indigenous Status. Data collections which rely on the assessment of a third party are most frequently affected by this.

Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

47. The complete classification is most commonly used in the Census, surveys specifically targeted to Indigenous people and some administrative collections. The category, 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' is likely to contain few people and should be released separately with care. If 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' has too few people to be released separately then, data should be released for the total Indigenous Status only, with no further breakdown.

Terminology Guidelines

48. In November 1992 the Chief Executive Officer of ATSIC made a formal request to all government bodies that they adopt appropriate terminology when referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Acceptable terms

49. The correct name for this variable is 'Indigenous Status'. An acceptable alternative is 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin'.

50. 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' is the preferred term for referring to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders collectively. 'Indigenous peoples' is an acceptable alternative. Circumstances where the latter term might be used in place of the former term include:

- in sentences where repetition of the term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' detracts from the readability of the text;
- in presenting information in tables or graphs where the term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' detracts from the readability of the table or graph, or where space is limited.

51. 'Indigenous Australians' is also an acceptable term for referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

52. The terms 'Indigenous' and 'Aboriginal(s)' should always be capitalised when referring to Indigenous Australians and Australian Aboriginal(s). These terms do not need capitals when used in a general sense to refer to the original inhabitants of other countries.

Unacceptable terms

53. 'Aboriginality' is an unacceptable alternative for 'Indigenous Status'.

54. The terms 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' are used in the question wording because they are widely accepted throughout Australia and are not offensive to Indigenous people. These terms should not be replaced in the question with other terms such as 'Koori' or 'Murri' as terms relating to particular Aboriginal groups do not cover Torres Strait Islander people and many other Aboriginal groups. Indigenous people who do not identify with alternative terms may resent having the terms applied to them or may respond 'No' to the question. Although 'Koori', 'Murri' and other names of particular groups are unacceptable alternatives for 'Aboriginal' in a general sense and in the Indigenous Status question, they may be used to refer to a person or group of people who are known to identify themselves as 'Koori', 'Murri', etc.

55. 'ATSI', ATSIs 'ATSI people', 'Aboriginal and TSI' or 'A&TSI' 'Islanders', 'TSIs', 'TIs' are all unacceptable terms.

56. 'ATSIC people' or 'ATSICs' are also incorrect. ATSIC, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, is an organisation.

57. When referring to events or circumstances affecting Indigenous people, phrases such as 'Deaths of Indigenous people' are to be preferred over 'Indigenous deaths'.

58. 'Aboriginal' should not be used to include Torres Strait Islander people, in particular the following should be avoided '... Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, referred to subsequently as Aboriginal,...'.

59. Persons and groups of persons should not be described as 'ethnic': this is both

inaccurate and offensive.

RELATED CLASSIFICATIONS

60. Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 1249.0.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Output

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Output](#)

STANDARD OUTPUT CATEGORIES

43. In output, the name of this variable is 'Indigenous Status'. The output categories are the same as the categories of the standard classification and may include the supplementary category, if applicable:

- Aboriginal but Not Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal Origin
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Not stated/Inadequately described

The following output categories are also legitimate:

- Indigenous
- Non-Indigenous
- Not stated/Inadequately described

Appropriate labels

44. For publishing purposes, some of these labels may be unwieldy. The following are standard shortened forms of the output categories, suitable for use in publications.

Publication labels for the detailed level of the classification:

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Non-Indigenous
- Not stated

Publication labels for the broader level of the classification:

- Indigenous
- Non-Indigenous
- Not stated

SUPPORTING VARIABLES

45. Indigenous Status does not require any supporting variables. However, the Census derives a response for some categories of 'Not Stated/Inadequately described' using the supporting variables of Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother and Country of Birth of Father.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Glossary of terms

[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> Glossary of terms](#)

Indigenous Status

Where an Indigenous Status definition is required for explanatory notes or glossaries associated with statistical tables, the standard operational definition should be used. The operational definition is: Indigenous Status indicates whether or not a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

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[Contents >> Indigenous Status >> References](#)

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[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

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[Contents](#) >> [Ancestry](#) >> [References](#)

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[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Year of Arrival in Australia

[Contents](#) >> [Year of Arrival in Australia](#)

The following standard was amended in May 2003.

The complete standard is given below as a pdf file.

Year of arrival in Australia

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[Previous Page](#)

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 05/11/2014.

19/04/2017

Links on the Contents page to the updated standards were amended to connect to the most recent standards.

05/11/2014

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Indigenous Status standard.

28/08/2014

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Ancestry standard.

26/05/2014

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Australian Citizenship standard.

11/03/2014

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Year of Arrival in Australia standard.

26/09/2012

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Religious Affiliation standard.

26/09/2012

The Contents page was updated to include a link to the updated Country of Birth standard.

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